

COMMUNITY NEWS

News: communitynews@statesman.com or 512-445-3863



TRAVIS COUNTY

DOWNTOWN AUSTIN

Parking program expands

The city of Austin and the Downtown Austin Alliance are making more city-owned, downtown parking available to service-industry professionals and other evening workers by expanding the city's Affordable Parking Program.

The program is intended to make downtown parking more accessible and provide financial relief to those who work in hospitality and tourism downtown. It will include affordable evening parking at the City Hall garage and the One Texas Center garage, across Lady Bird Lake on Barton Springs Road. This expansion more than doubles the capacity of the program, increasing it from about 200 spaces to about 500 spaces.

An application is required to participate in the Affordable Parking Program, with a monthly fee ranging from \$35 to \$65. Applications and more information, including hours, are available at austintexas.gov/affordableparking.

— AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

EAST AUSTIN

Pet Expo this weekend

The 2018 Austin Pet Expo will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at the Travis County Expo Center, 7311 Decker Lane.

The event will include spa-like treatments from local groomers, treats, pet care tips, costumes for pets, an agility demonstration, pet talent and costume shows, animals available for adoption and a pet/owner look-alike contest.

All well-behaved pets are welcome with proof of age-appropriate rabies vaccines, a signed waiver and must be on a fixed leash or in a carrier at all times.

Tickets are available online for \$5 for adults and \$3 for children or at the door for \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Two-day passes are \$8 for adults online or \$10 at the door and \$5 for children online and \$7 at the door.

For tickets: austinpexpo.com/admission.

— AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

AUSTIN SCHOOLS

Grant goes to lunch program

The St. David's Foundation has awarded the Austin Ed Fund \$550,000 for a one-year project as part of its Nourishing Young Minds program.

The grant will allow the Austin school district's nutrition and food services staff to continue to prepare scratch-made, fresh meals, but from a centralized location. The pilot will inform the development of a master plan to create a large-scale production kitchen, storage and distribution center to serve the district's approximately 81,000 students.

The pilot kitchen will begin this fall at McCallum High School. The district will develop a master plan based on data from the pilot kitchen, including architectural design and renderings, to build a central production kitchen to distribute fresh meals districtwide.

— AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

ROUND ROCK

Back-to-school event Sunday

The Round Rock Police Department, along with the Round Rock school district and community partners, will host a back-to-school celebration from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday at Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley Road.

The event for Round Rock school district students will include a school supply giveaway (while supplies last), hearing and vision screenings, sports physicals, miniature sports workshops, public safety vehicles on display, food and live music.

Other features at the event will include a petting zoo, rock wall, live music, an indoor vendor fair and bounce houses.

— AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

GEORGETOWN

Register for Citizen Police Academy

Registration is open for the Georgetown Citizen Police Academy, a 12-week course taught by police officers to educate citizens about all aspects of the Georgetown Police Department.

The deadline to apply is Aug. 15.

Classes will run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays, Aug. 23 through Nov. 8. The first class will be at the Public Safety Operations and Training Center, 3500 D.B. Wood Road. There is no charge to attend the academy, but seating is limited and applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Applications are available in person at the training center or by emailing a request to randy.mcdonald@georgetown.org.

— AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

HAYS COUNTY

BUDA

Downtown Dash debuts Aug. 10

Buda Main Street will present its first Downtown Dash event from 7 to 9 p.m. Aug. 10.

The event, based on the television series "The Amazing Race," will feature six tasks at six different downtown businesses, as well as an awards ceremony to crown the winners. Ten teams of two will have to solve clues to determine the location of the task and navigate their way there to complete the challenge.

The first 10 teams to complete the registration form and submit a payment of \$20 will receive automatic entry, and subsequent teams will be added to a waiting list.

For a registration form: bit.ly/2LKvY37.

— AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

BASTROP

Seton to invest \$900,000 in infrastructure for new hospital

By Brandon Mulder
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Seton Family of Hospitals has turned dirt on the 32-acre site near the intersection at Texas 71 and Texas 304 in Bastrop, where it's building a neighborhood hospital.

Last week, Seton's contractors began installing utility improvements, the first step toward the hospital's construction. The Bastrop City Council also approved an agreement last week that would cause Seton to deposit \$896,317 into an escrow account to ensure those utility improvement projects will be completed.

The \$896,317 amount is the estimated cost of the installation of a public lift station, wastewater improvements and potable water improvements. The money will be held by a third-party escrow agent at Heritage Title Co. of Austin. Under the agreement, the title company will hold the money until the

utility improvement projects are completed, at which point those funds will be released to Seton.

"If they don't build it, we'll have the funds to go finish it," interim City Engineer Jerry Palady told the council.

The agreement comes nearly two months after Bastrop, Bastrop County and Seton executives celebrated the hospital's groundbreaking in early May.

The \$30 million medical facility is slated to be completed by spring 2019 and is designed to scale up alongside Bastrop County's booming population growth.

In its first stage, the 40,000-square-foot facility will include an emergency room, imaging services, at least eight inpatient beds, 12 treatment rooms and medical offices space that will offer patients primary and specialty care services.

Under a performance agreement signed last year with the Bastrop Economic Development Corp., Seton will employ at least 20 people by the end

of its first year and 35 by the end of its second. Employees must be paid, on average, \$40,000 per year.

The BEDC is also investing \$1.25 million into the property, which for years had stood as raw pasture land on the side of Texas 71. The investment will go toward drainage improvements and a mile of road that would connect Agnes Street and Home Depot Way and serve as an access point to the hospital.

The street extension and drainage upgrades are part of an incentive agreement the BEDC struck with Seton to entice the company to build in Bastrop.

The \$1.25 million will be financed by a bond issued by Houston-based Amegy Bank of Texas with a fixed 3.39 percent interest rate. The BEDC, which annually receives about \$2.2 million of city sales tax revenue, will pay back the debt every year for up to a 15-year period, beginning in August 2019.

Contact Brandon Mulder at 512-321-2557.

AUSTIN



Veterinarians deployed to Puerto Rico for spay/neuter project

A team of 15 Emancipet veterinarians and staff, including CEO Amy Mills, traveled to Puerto Rico in July and performed 750 free spay/neuter surgeries and vaccinations for pets and their families. Emancipet, the national nonprofit based in Austin, took part in an initiative to spay and neuter more than 20,000 pets in Puerto Rico, where an estimated 300,000 pets remain homeless following Hurricane Maria in September 2017. As the surgical provider for the Manati region of the island, Emancipet shipped equipment and set up a makeshift high-volume surgical center in a community center without running water or reliable power. Another trip will take place Nov. 3-9. PHOTO BY DENNIS M. RIVERA PICHARDO

PFLUGERVILLE

Community, comfort, chicken at Bahadi's

Chicago-style food rules the roost, but Cajun has a home at sibling-owned eatery.

By Ariana Garcia
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Damara Guillory and her brother Dawan Anderson may own a restaurant in Pflugerville, but their culinary inspiration comes from the Midwest.

Bahadi's Chicken, which opened at 907 FM 685 in March 2017, introduces Chicago-style food to the community and serves up favorites for Chicago natives wanting a taste of home.

Their signature meal: fried chicken wings drenched in Chicago's famous mild sauce.

"Some people think it tastes like barbecue sauce, other people say it tastes like ketchup," Guillory said. "It's just a really tasty sauce, and you can eat it with fish and shrimp, too."

Opening a restaurant together was something natural for the siblings. They grew up around food and incorporated what they learned from family members who own several restaurants in Chicago.

Anderson recalled his grandmother hosting the neighborhood at her Chicago restaurant for good food and live music.

"You would go home feeling like you were a part of something bigger than yourself," Anderson said.

Now he said he wants to bring that same relaxed, community atmosphere to Pflugerville.

As a child, Guillory would spend her summers and winters in Chicago. She would frequent Harold's Chicken Shack, her favorite chicken joint, which she said served as an inspiration for Bahadi's.

"By far, Chicago has always been



Damara Guillory and her brother Dawan Anderson own Bahadi's Chicken in Pflugerville. The restaurant name originates from Anderson's middle name. He said it means "good luck." ARIANA GARCIA

my favorite place to eat," she said. "As an adult, I have a family now and it's hard for me to travel as much, but I still wanted that food. So why not bring it here?"

After working in the hotel business for 18 years, Guillory, a Pflugerville native, reached out to her brother, who recently moved from Chicago to the area with his family to open the spot. The name originates from Anderson's middle name, which he said means "good luck."

Since its opening, Guillory said the Pflugerville community has embraced Bahadi's.

"We're only getting busier, which is a great thing," she said. "People are really starting to hear about us."

The siblings may have started as a traditional Chicago eatery, but they

are always seeking new ways to bring innovation to their menu, and southern cuisine has definitely had an influence.

This week, Bahadi's rolled out Soul Food Sundays, which offers Southern comfort food favorites like candied yams, meatloaf, smothered pork chops and broccoli and cheese casserole.

Guillory said her husband's side of the family is big on Cajun cuisine, which led them to also add items like po' boy sandwiches and gumbo. And they are developing a recipe for Chicago-style pizza.

The restaurant also serves as a hub for community events and hosts karaoke, comedy nights and live bands.

"There's nothing you can't get as far as entertainment and good food," Anderson said. "There's a little bit of everything."